Using abrasive wheel equipment exposes you to many potential hazards—most of which could severely injure or even kill you.

Take the following actions to avoid injury:

- Always keep guards in place and use proper face, eye, and hand protection. Exploding abrasive stones—caused by manufacturer defects—could send chunks of the stone into the operator’s mid-section. Because the stones turn thousands of times per minute at high speed, an injury could be serious.

- Always keep the spindle end, nut, and flange projections protected with rigid protective guarding. Unguarded exposure could catch your sleeve, hand, or other body parts.

- Always make sure the work rest is attached and kept 1/8 inch from the stone wheel on bench grinders. That will assure the part being ground does not wedge between the work rest and the stone wheel, avoiding several potential problems.

- On bench grinders, make sure the “tongue” guard (upper adjustable guard) is tightened within 1/4 inch of the stone to assure busted parts or stones are contained.

- Use flanges to secure the grinding stones. All flanges should be uniform in size and strength and meet all manufacturer specifications.

Abrasive wheel equipment can be safe to use if it is well maintained and all guards are kept in place.